

(e) To achieve the target for 1997-98, close liaison with users and concerned Ministries is being maintained for maximum movement of traffic by rail. Close monitoring is being done right from Field level to Railway Board level for smooth and faster movement of rail traffic.

Harnessing of Wind and Solar Energy

*234. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether wind and solar energy are projected to be harnessed with a view to substantially diversifying and conserving the conventional energy resources;

(b) the extent to which wind and solar-power have been harnessed to generate electricity so far and the target fixed in this regard for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Asia's largest solar plant project to be set up at Kalyanpur (near Aligarh) has flopped and if so, in what circumstances and at what stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(b) Significant progress has been made towards harnessing of wind and solar energy. A wind power capacity of about 900 MW and solar photovoltaic projects aggregating to 28 MW capacity were installed up to 31.3.97, in different parts of the country. The solar photovoltaic capacity primarily comprises stand-alone systems for lighting, pumping, telecommunication etc. and over 700 MW of grid-connected solar projects.

The following targets for wind and solar energy systems have been proposed for the 9th Five Year Plan :

(i)	Wind Power	2000 MW
(ii)	Solar Photovoltaic Systems (stand-alone)	100 MW
(iii)	Solar Power Projects (grid-connected)	150 MW

(c) No, Sir. The 100 KW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant is providing domestic lighting to 475 households, electricity for 65 street lights and 15 irrigation pumpsets in Kayanpur village. Barring a few problems, the 75 KW stand-alone portion of the Plant has by and large been functioning satisfactorily. The 25 KW grid-connected portion is under trials. Very useful experience has been gained from this plant in manufacture. Installation and operation of high voltage solar photovoltaic systems.

Smuggling of Genetic Resources from India

*235. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them abroad have come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

[Translation]

Dak Adalats

*236. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise 'Dak Adalats' in the country;

(b) if so, the details of subjects which are proposed to be handled by these adalats; and

(c) the time by which these 'Adalats' are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Salient Features of 'Dak Adalats' Scheme

In order to have greater interface with the public including postal pensioners and to settle public complaints relating to the postal services efficiently, the Department of Post, *inter-alia* has been taking various steps from time to time to strengthen the grievance machinery at different levels i.e. at Headquarters, Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. One of the important initiatives taken by the Department in this direction was the introduction of 'Dak Adalats' at all the circle Headquarters in December, 1990. The complaints handled by these 'Dak Adalats' relate to Counter services, Savings Banks, Money Orders, Parcels, Value Payable, Postal Life Insurance, Speed Post and

Foreign Mail Articles and Pension/Terminal benefits to postal pensioners.

2. The details/modalities of formation of these 'Dak Adalats' are as under :-

Composition

The Adalat comprises of three members - Head of the Circle (Chairman), Internal Financial Adviser and Director Postal Services. The Regional Postmaster General can also be called to assist the Chief Postmaster General.

Scope

The types of complaints and disputes which are taken up by these Adalats cover all types of problems relating to Postal Services, especially, mails, speed post, parcels, counter service, Savings Bank, Money Orders, embezzlements and also the pension cases of Postal Employees.

Jurisdiction, Venue & Frequency

The Adalats are held once in each quarter at the Head-quarter of the circle with a provision to hold it in any other place also, in the respective Postal Circle. On 29.10.91 the scheme was extended to the Divisional level as well. The Senior Superintendent of Post Offices/Superintendent of Post Offices chairs the Divisional Adalat. A notice of 4 to 6 weeks is given for holding of an Adalat. Wide publicity is also given for holding such Adalat through the press, TV/ AIR so that any concerned person having a grievance can approach the Dak Adalat for redressal.

[English]

Commercialisation of Unutilised Railway Property

*237. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration of commercial utilization of Railway properties and lands;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have worked out an identified surplus railway land;

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(e) whether the Government have consulted or propose to consult the State Governments on the subject; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railways have proposed commercial utilisation of airspace over railway structures/yards for raising resources. One such project is at Mumbai (Bandra). However, a decision on this issue, has been deferred by the Government of India.

(c) No, Sir. Railways do not have surplus land.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. For Pilot project at Bandra concerned State Government i.e. State Government of Maharashtra has been consulted. The surplus funds generated were proposed to be equally utilised for taking up Railway works in city of Mumbai, State of Maharashtra and other parts of the country.

[Translation]

Theft in Gold Mines

*238. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Gold worth crores of rupees is being stolen from Gold Mines every year;

(b) if so, the details and the market value thereof;

(c) the quantity of gold stolen from mines during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the theft of Gold from Gold Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn from time to time to the alleged theft of gold from the gold mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Mines. According to the available information, stray cases of theft of gold bearing quartz have been reported from the mines of BGML. These are isolated cases and the quantity and value of gold involved are not significant. Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a public sector undertaking of the Government of Karnataka, have reported that no theft of gold has occurred in the Hutti gold mines.

To strengthen the security arrangements of BGML, the following steps have been taken :-

(i) Physical search of the employees working in the mines and mills is being conducted regularly. Surprise checks are also being conducted.